



# Caring for Your Lawn Water Conservation Tips



*If you don't want a water wise landscape, at least water wisely! Grass does not have to be a water waster!*

## WATERING GUIDELINES

On average, outdoor water use accounts for about two-thirds of a typical home's water use. Many homeowners over water their lawns by 30% to 100%! Not only can over-watering be bad for your lawn, it often causes the excess water to run off the landscape, into the street and down our storm drains.

## EASY STEPS TO WATER MORE EFFICIENTLY

1. Water between 5:00 pm and 9:00 am (per BH Municipal Code).
2. Water 2 to 3 days a week (per Stage C):  
**North of Santa Monica Blvd:**  
October - May: Monday & Friday  
June - September: Monday, Wednesday & Friday  
**South of Santa Monica Blvd:**  
October - May: Tuesday & Saturday  
June - September: Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday
3. Use MP rotating sprinkler heads which water slower and more efficiently than traditional sprinkler heads (rebates available at [www.SoCalWaterSmart.com](http://www.SoCalWaterSmart.com)).
4. Water more efficiently for your type of grass, soil, sprinkler type and location.
5. Check and adjust your irrigation system (timer and sprinkler heads) monthly.
6. Install a weather based irrigation controller that automatically adjusts with the weather (rebates available at [www.SoCalWaterSmart.com](http://www.SoCalWaterSmart.com)).
7. Change the back-up battery in your irrigation timer twice a year.



## MOWING HEIGHT

Select less thirsty grasses (see options below). Use a longer cut for maximum water conservation and healthier turf. Raise your lawn mower blade to 3" to 3-1/2" in the summer and to 1-1/2" to 2-1/2" in the cooler months. A lawn cut higher encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the root system and holds in soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.

THIRSTY!

### Cool Season Turf

Kentucky bluegrass  
Fescue  
Marathon  
Ryegrass

MEDIUM WATER

### Warm Season Turf

Bermuda  
Zoysia  
St. Augustine  
Kikuyu

WATER WISE

### Turf Alternatives

Buffalo Grass  
Carex Pansa  
Dymondia  
Kurapia  
Creeping Thyma  
Various groundcovers

## OTHER HELPFUL TIPS

1. **Water in Cycles** (aka: Cycle & Soak) – Deep watering less frequently encourages stronger, healthier turf with deeper roots. To avoid overwatering and run-off, water in cycles (example: instead of watering for 10 minutes straight, water for 5 minutes at 4:00 am and an hour later, water for another 5 minutes). If you have clay soil or a slope, you may need to split the time into three cycles. This also works well for water wise plants.
2. **Aerate and Dethatch** – At least twice a year aerate and dethatch your lawn to help water infiltrate.
3. **Reduce Lawn Area** – Expand planter bed borders with drought tolerant plants. Make sure these areas are on separate valves than your grass in order to water these areas appropriately.
4. **Grasscycle** – Leave grass clipping on the lawn to naturally decompose. The clippings return nutrients back into the soil and prevent overfilling our landfills.
5. **Fertilizer** – If you fertilize, use an organic compost or composted manure instead of chemical fertilizers. This will build healthier soil, conserve moisture, and be less likely to cause water quality problems if run-off gets into our storm drains.